U of M withdraws from Maclean’s rankings

The University of Manitoba has joined 10 other universities in Canada in announcing that they will no longer take part in the Maclean’s magazine’s annual university ranking survey.

The universities explained their reasons for declining Maclean’s invitation to assist in this year’s university rankings exercise in a letter to Maclean’s dated Aug. 14 and signed by the presidents of all 11 universities. That letter can be found on page 2 of The Bulletin.

The group includes nine of Canada’s 15 medical-doctoral universities (Dalhousie, McMaster, Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary, Manitoba, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto) and two other universities (Simon Fraser, Lethbridge).

The group described the Maclean’s rankings as “over-simplified and arbitrary.” In areas such as the reputation component of the ranking, the universities note that Maclean’s relies on surveys that suffer from low response rates.

In a preamble to the letter, the universities state they “object to Maclean’s misuse of data in establishing a “ranking” table that is, at best, useless and, at worst, misleading to students wishing to make a thorough choice about the university they wish to attend.”

The University of Manitoba has long objected to the ways in which the rankings were presented and has encouraged careful examination of the categories and raw numbers. By reducing an entire university to a single measure, the U of M has argued the Maclean’s ranking actually obscures each university’s true strengths.

In the areas that count most for students and parents – such as student support and student outcome measures – the University of Manitoba and its students excel nationally.

President Emőke Szathmáry has weighed into the discussion with an online opinion piece detailing why now was the right time to say ‘thanks, but no thanks’ to Maclean’s magazine and its survey. The full column can be found on the president’s webpage or at umanitoba.ca/admin/president/updates/2006_aug_14.html.

Szathmáry said she learned about the planned boycott when the University of Manitoba was approached at the end of June. After consulting with the vice-presidents and the director of institutional analysis, Szathmáry said the U of M decided to join the boycott.

“We have long been critical of Maclean’s methodology, so the opportunity was ripe to act on that criticism by refusing to collaborate any longer,” Szathmáry said.

See PLENTY/P 2.

In the land of dinosaurs

A group of youngsters from Cairns Daycare in Waverly Heights took the University of Manitoba by storm on Wednesday, Aug. 9. The kids toured the Ed Leith Cretaceous Menagerie in the Wallace Building, had a look through the department of entomology and even got to hone their paper airplane making skills in the Engineering and Information Technology Complex.

Do your part for science

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

Who says there’s no such thing as a free lunch? In fact, the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals is looking for people willing to consume anywhere between one and three healthy meals a day.

“We’d like to recruit 120 people – that would be an ideal number – for our clinical trials,” research development manager Curtis Rempel said. “You get some nutritious food seven days a week.”

“This is ideal for people looking at healthy ways to approach their diet,” Richardson Centre director Peter Jones said. Through the trials – and there are up to five set to go ahead this fall – the centre will be looking for participants to show improvement in their cholesterol levels, an increase in their metabolic rate or even a reduction in body fat.

To find out more about the trials, people can call 474 9787 or attend a nutrition event at the Richardson Centre, 196 Innovation Drive, set for 6:30 p.m., Aug. 23.

See CLINICAL/P 3.
II. Universities reject the Maclean’s survey

The following letter was delivered to Maclean’s magazine on Aug. 14.

August 14, 2006
Mr. Tony Keller
Managing Editor, Special Projects
Maclean’s

Dear Mr. Keller:

We regret to advise you that our universities will not be participating in the 2006 Maclean’s questionnaire.

We share Maclean’s goal of providing good information for students and their families who are researching post-secondary education. We also complement your on your editorial coverage of the post-secondary sector. Many of the articles in Maclean’s have contributed to the national discussion about post-secondary education, and have helped to frame students’ choices. Our concern relates specifically to Maclean’s ranking of Canadian universities.

In various ways and for some years, many institutional spokespersons have expressed considerable reservations about the methodology used in the Maclean’s university survey and the validity and meaningfulness of the measures used. Thus far, these serious concerns have gone largely unaddressed, and there is still no evidence that Maclean’s intends to respond to them.

We welcome public assessment of our work, and our institutions devote significant resources to that end. We already publish a great deal of data about our own institutions on-line and intend to publish more in future, ideally in the form of standardized datasets that will facilitate valid temporal and institutional comparisons. However, it is truly hard for us to justify the investment of public funds required to generate customized data for your survey when those data are compiled in ways that we regard as oversimplified and arbitrary.

Our concerns about Maclean’s misuse of data in its rankings issue can be briefly recapitulated here. To begin with, the Maclean’s rankings aggregate data from a range of variables related to the student body, academics, facilities, finances, reputation. It is inappropriate to aggregate information across a range of programs at a large and multidimensional research university into a single ranking number. Consider how such an approach might pervert our understanding of a general hospital that is ranked #1 in obstetrics and #10 in cancer care. Averaging these rankings would result in the hospital being ranked “#5 overall.” For the patient seeking care in one of these areas, such a measure would be useless and misleading.

Second, the methodology used, in our view, fails to capture the breadth of our institutions, is the fact that a clear majority of individuals who receive the Maclean’s reputational survey do not respond. Respondents areorlding at worst, effective the methodology that Maclean’s applies to Canadian universities by calculation “of ‘learning environment’ based on the arbitrary assignment of weights to variables which, by themselves, are questionable validity. The variables selected by Maclean’s also fail to capture the breadth of experiences students say are important in their university education such as, for example, extra-curricular activities or the opportunity for rich and diverse interactions with peers and faculty outside the classroom.

We are also concerned by Maclean’s recent attempt to draw comparisons of student experience across incomparable surveys of student engagement, and Maclean’s reliance on survey data with low response rates despite all the associated response biases that arise from skewed profiles of respondents. The responsible compilation and comparison of data is a core tenet of academic research. Several universities already show student survey results on their websites, and question Maclean’s decision to pull different kinds of data out of context and compare “apples and oranges.”

Maclean’s treatment of these survey data, in our view, fails to give appropriate notice to these methodological limitations.

It is not just the Maclean’s student survey that has suffered from low response rates. Equally troubling is the fact that a clear majority of individuals who receive the Maclean’s reputational survey do not respond. Respondents are worlding at worst, effective the methodology used is oversimplified and arbitrary. We do find it ironic that universities are being asked to subsidize and legitimize this flawed methodology; when many faculty, staff, and students at our institutions are dedicated in their research to ensuring that data are collected rigorously and analyzed meticulously. We remain open to the possibility of collaborating with Maclean’s at some future date, particularly if we can agree on means to ensure that the data we contribute are examined and analyses truly informative. Meanwhile, we will continue to publish data on our websites to facilitate informed student and family choice.

Yours truly,
Tom Traves,
Dalhousie University
Peter George,
McGill University
Michael Stevenson,
Simon Fraser University
Indira Samarasekera,
University of Alberta
Stephen Troupe,
University of British Columbia
Harvey Weingarten,
University of Calgary
William Cade,
University of Guelph
Emőke Szathmáry,
University of Manitoba
Gilles Patry,
University of Ottawa
David Naylor,
University of Toronto

Plenty of other surveys hold U of M accountable

From Page 1
“...In the spring, for example, I visited both the editor-in-chief of the magazine and the editor of the university ranking issue, and raised my objections as I had with their predecessors,” Szathmáry noted in her online update on the matter. “They remained non-committal, and the signal I received was that no changes in the magazine’s ranking methods would be forthcoming at any time soon.”

The U of M briefly dropped out of the Maclean’s survey in the 1990s, but it came back onboard amid concerns that not being listed among the universities surveyed would take it off the radar screen of international students. There was also concern that not participating would make the U of M vulnerable to accusations that it was not being accountable to the broader community.

Szathmáry said neither one of those concerns is valid today. “Our procedures for international recruitment are strong. The availability of international scholarships and bursaries at the undergraduate and graduate level, as well as a competitive tuition relative to other universities of our kind, make the University of Manitoba an attractive institution to prospective students.”

The university also takes part in numerous surveys that employ methods that are superior to those employed by Maclean’s. The list of surveys includes the Undergraduate Student Survey Consortium (USCC), which collects data, in context, on their own websites to facilitate informed student decision making.

Canadian Medical Association honours Friesen

On Aug. 23, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) will present the 2006 F. N. G. Starr Award to University of Manitoba distinguished professor emeritus Henry Friesen.

Friesen expresses his recognition for his exceptional devotion for the betterment of mankind which has made a difference in health care.

Named for Frederic Newton G. Starr (1867-1934), a former Secretary General of the CMA, the F. N. G. Starr Award is presented by the Victoria Cross of Canadian Medicine.

“It is humbling to be recognized in such a context to be among this distinguished group” at the ceremony. Friesen is “very pleased and deeply grateful for the variety of opportunities I have had in medicine and science as a teacher clinician, researcher and administrator.”

Born in Manitoba, Friesen attended the University of Manitoba and graduated in science in 1945 and medicine in 1948.

He trained as an endocrinologist at the New England Center Hospital, Boston, and was named a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1950. In 1965, he was appointed to McGill University and Royal Victoria Hospital.

In 1973, he moved to Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba where he served until 1991 as professor and head of the department of physiology, and professor of medicine.

He successfully isolated and purified the human pituitary hormone prolactin and determined that excessive circulating prolactin caused infertility. This observation laid the groundwork for other investigations and for the development of an antagonist drug, bromocriptine, to treat this cause of infertility in the 1990s, he and his working group that led to the creation of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation.

In 1999, his visionary leadership and tireless effort set the stage for the transformation of the MRC into a new agency. In 2000, he was appointed the founding chair of Genome Canada, the federal government’s lead corporation supporting genomics research in Canada and served in this role for five years.

Zuk, from June to August.

The Bulletin can be viewed online at umanitoba.ca/bulletin

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Clinical trials offer free meals and health benefits

From Page 1.

We'll have speakers talking about functional foods and nutraceuticals and samples of the meals that people can expect to consume as part of the studies," Rempel said. There will be an opportunity to sign up for the trials at the nutrition event. The range of involvement will vary: some people will eat three meals a day from the Richardson Centre, others will receive one meal a day or solely receive dietary advice. The nutrition department will be incorporated into the food.

The trials cut to the heart of what the Richardson Centre, which opened in 2002 and Chair of the Board from 2002-2006. His leadership, commitment and dedication to the University of Manitoba are greatly appreciated.

The University of Manitoba also wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Mr. Wayne Anderson, a Board member since 1998, Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors since 2000. Mr. Anderson is currently serving as a Member of Parliament and Board membership on organizations including the Winnipeg Folk Festival (currently as board president), the Whitehorse Housing Co-operative, the Yukon Arts Centre, Prairie Theatre Exchange and the Manitoba Theatre Centre. Mr. Sargeant has been a member of the Board of Governors since 2001, and has served as Vice-Chair of the Board since 2002.

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The AgCentennial Scholarship Fund was established as a result of this event, with more than $500,000 raised in funds. The scholarship will be aimed at students entering the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences.

This fall, the AgCentennial celebration will continue with a gala event on Nov. 6, the official date the Manitoba Agricultural College opened in 1906. Stay tuned to umanitoba.ca/afs/agentennial/ for details.

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The University of Manitoba is grateful for the contributions of Mr. Terry Sargeant and Ms Shirley Van Schie, who have been a part of the University of Manitoba family for several years. Mr. Sargeant is a two-time graduate of the University of Manitoba in Arts and Law. He currently serves as the Chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission. Mr. Sargeant's many years of public service include two terms as a Member of Parliament and Board membership on organizations including the Winnipeg Folk Festival (currently as board president), the Whitehorse Housing Co-operative, the Yukon Arts Centre, Prairie Theatre Exchange and the Manitoba Theatre Centre. Mr. Sargeant has been a member of the Board of Governors since 2001, and has served as Vice-Chair of the Board since 2002.

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A Day in the Life of an Aurora Coach

BY DALE BARBOUR

The Bulletin

In this case, it’s the coaches that are in the field.

As part of its systems renewal process, the University of Manitoba has launched Aurora Student – a powerful new web-based program that looks after everything from student records and class schedules to student registration.

Training sessions have been held throughout the campus to ensure that staff members using the new system know how it works. But quarterbacking the effort, now that Aurora is up and running, is a group of 10 coaches including Maureen Paisley, Jocelyn Advent and Greg Linton.

“We’re there to ensure that any issues that have to be addressed with the new system are tackled as they come up,” Paisley said.

The campus has been divided up among us by geography,” Linton added. He’s based in University Centre, Paisley shares the School of Pharmacy, the Bannatyne and the Faculty of Environment, Earth and Art, Faculty of Pharmacy, the Paisley shares the School of Business, and the Faculty of Science while Advent looks after University 1, The I.H. Asper School of Business, and the Faculty of Social Work.

Linton is based directly in the registrar’s office and typically when people want help they just have to lean back on their chairs and call his name. For Paisley and Advent, life is spent on the move.

“We don’t have desk phones,” Paisley said, “We have cell phones because they didn’t anticipate we’d be at our desks a lot.”

Good call – because the summer has been spent guiding people across the university as they get used to the new system and what it can do for them.

“At the end of the day we’re not working with a computer system: we’re working with people,” Linton said.

But the coaches are well prepared – while they’re divided up across the campus now, they trained together as a group learning the nuts and bolts of the Aurora program.

“We had three months of preparation and were involved in the documentation stage where the programmers find out how the system works, document how it works and then tell people how it works,” Linton said.

“We got to know each other very well and we know each others strengths and weaknesses so if a problem comes up we’re not afraid to call one of the other coaches and ask for help,” Paisley said.

Linton is new to the University of Manitoba, making the jump from Convergys and a background that included a degree in physics, training in the technical field and public relations and seminar training. The U of M position seemed the perfect fit and a good career move.

“There’s the opportunity to work with people, an element of teaching that I enjoy and there’s a geek factor,” Linton said.

Advent and Paisley were already working at the U of M when the coach positions came up.

“Working as an Aurora coach gives them the best possible training in the new system. So that even when their term as a coach expires they’ll be well positioned to move back into the regular university workforce,” Advent said.

Advent said the coach position gives her a chance to use her Education degree within the university community and could be a great stepping stone to corporate training.

Paisley had worked with the previous computer systems at the university. When Aurora finance came along she was impressed with what it could do and the functionality it allowed its users.

“I was impressed with the way they did the training,” Paisley added. “It was not top down. The university sent out an e-mail and you could sign up for what you needed. I liked that approach and I was really keen to have good training in Aurora student so I thought working as a coach would be the best way.”

Welcome new faculty members

The University of Manitoba has always focused on the twin goals of teaching and research. With those goals in mind, The Bulletin is proud to profile new faculty members, looking at where they’ve come from and where their teaching and research projects will take the university in the future.

GORDON FITZELL

Assistant Professor

Music Theory and Composition

Gordon received a dual-emphasis PhD in music composition and theory from the University of British Columbia in 2004. His dissertation, "Time-Consciousness and Form in Nonlinear Music,” examines the structure of experience in contemporary music. His music has been performed across Canada and at international festivals including the Festival Synthèse Bourges (France) and the Darmstadt Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik (Germany). He has received commissions from the Canada Council for the Arts and the CBC, and various awards including first prize in the electroacoustic music category at the CBC Radio National Competition for Young Composers (1999).

Gordon is also a guitarist, sound diffuser and electronic improviser, having performed with sound and video artists such as Marianne Bos, Giorgio Magnanensi, Massimo Mariani and Stefan Smulovitz. In 2003 he co-launched the Experimental Music Collective, whose recent events have included outdoor art installations.

Gordon was recently a featured composer and performer at the Brandcon New Music Festival and an invited composer of the ‘Eanglewood Festival in Lenox, MA. Upcoming projects include a commission for clarinetist François Houle and music for the multimedia extravaganza Circus Maximus.

Bannatyne campus is smoke-free

The University of Manitoba has declared its Bannatyne campus a smoke-free zone.

The policy, passed earlier this year, extends the university’s no-smoking restriction to cover the entire Bannatyne campus – including all buildings, grounds and parking areas.

The policy applies to all members of the university community and is consistent a similar policy enacted by the University of Manitoba. Signs throughout the Bannatyne campus will alert people to the new policy.

For assistance with smoking cessation: umanitoba.ca/adminuman_ resources/bsb/media/bulletinsmoking.cfm

For information on the Clean Air Procedure see: umanitoba.ca/gov/gov_docs/procedures/cleanair.shtml

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Relationships are changing among families in India

By Dale Barbour

The Bulletin

In the early 1990s a set of television shows took India by storm. Based on the epic books Ramayana and Mahabharata, the shows depicted animosity and conflict among siblings and cousins, fueled by their claims to kingdoms, just as they depicted sibling loyalty and solidarity. Regardless of whether they were leading or united, the main theme was of sibling solidarity within the competing groups of siblings.

What the television series portrayed was the traditional ideal of adult sibling relationships between brothers based on respect and deference.

“Nearly two-thirds of the country watched these shows – that's three-quarters of a billion people,” sociology professor G. N. Ramu said. He added that the majority of the country was glued to the television.

“I thought since the shows were so popular, maybe I should look at the status of adult siblings,” Ramu said. Another motivation for him was that most studies of family and kinship in India in the last five decades have been focused on the social and economic function of the joint family and patrilineal kinship systems, with little attention paid to interpersonal relationships between siblings and among kin. This was particularly true of relations among adult siblings.

The Royal Society made the announcement on July 19 and will be hosting a ceremony to induct the new Fellows on Nov. 19.

“The society is proud to celebrate the intellectual achievements of the new Fellows,” said Society president Patricia Demers. “We wish to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of these individuals and their importance and creativity in all fields, from experimental and applied sciences to health and medical research, from traditional to social sciences and humanities to the various artistic domains.”

Founded in 1882, the Royal Society of Canada is Canada’s oldest and most prestigious scholarly organization. Election to the RSC is the highest honour that can be attained by scholars, artists and scientists in Canada.

Below are the RSC’s citations for the three new Fellows from the U of M:

SOCIETY PROFESSOR G. N. RAMU’S NEW BOOK "BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN INDIA: A STUDY OF URBAN AND ADULT SIBLINGS" CONSIDERS HOW FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ARE CHANGING IN INDIA.

FRANK PLUMMER

Frank Plummer is a physician-scientist, with an eclecti

SOCIOLOGY professor G. N. RAMU’S NEW BOOK "BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN INDIA: A STUDY OF URBAN AND ADULT SIBLINGS" CONSIDERS HOW FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ARE CHANGING IN INDIA.

Ellen R.udd is a sociocultural anthropologist whose work on women in modern rural

Harvey Chochinov is an international leader, role-model, and scholar in the field of palliative care. His pioneering work has played a major role in the definition of core-competencies and standards of care for practitioners around the world. His many writings in the area of psycho-oncology and palliative care have helped establish the importance of psycho-social considerations in comprehensive end-of-life care.

Ellen R.udd is a sociocultural anthropologist whose work on women in modern rural China has made path-breaking contributions to the anthropology of societies in post-socialist transition and on gender and kinship. Her innovative field research in China has allowed her to create a distinctive body of scholarship in the study of political economy, gender and cultural production and her insights have had wide international influence.

The Royal Society of Canada, The Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada, is the senior national body of distinguished Canadian scientists and scholars. Its primary objective is to promote learning and research in the arts and sciences.

The Society consists of approximately 1700 Fellows: men and women from across the country who are selected by their peers for outstanding contributions to the natural and social sciences and in the humanities.

Three professors from the University of Manitoba have been elected to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC).

“Distinguished professor Frank Plummer, medical microbiologist, Canada Research Chair in resistance and susceptibility to infections; Harvey Chochinov, Canada Research Chair in palliative care; and Ellen Judd, anthropology, were cited by the RSC for their dedication to “achieving excellence in their endeavours, thus upholding the prestige of the RSC for their dedication to excellence in their endeavours, thus upholding the prestige of the RSC,” Ramu said.

Ramu said that the television series portrayed the traditional ideal of adult sibling relationships between brothers based on respect and deference.

“We didn’t know much about sisters and whether they kept in touch,” Ramu said. To find out more, Ramu spent 16 months in the city of Mysores conducting in-depth interviews with 195 women and 168 men. What he found debunked a lot of myths about how siblings relate to each other.

The traditional view of brothers has been that the younger brother defers to the older brother but the reality turned out to be a much more collegial relationship.

The result of that Ramu’s curiosity was the publication of his book, whichRamus new book, Brothers and Sisters in India: A Study of Urban and Adult Siblings, the first detailed study of adult siblings in contemporary Indian society.

The traditional view of sibling relationships among brothers in India depicted them as rife with rivalry – often tied to land ownership. Meanwhile, there was little knowledge about the status of the relationships among female siblings.

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Medical rounds are typically targeted at university staff and professionals directly involved in the medical field.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23
Medicine Inaugural Day Exercises, 100 new medical students receive their white coats and recite the Hippocratic Oath, Theatre A, Basic Medical Sciences Building, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
Anthropology M.A. Thesis Defense, The Role of 3D Printing in Biological Anthropology by Travis T. Allard, 302 Tier Building, 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 17.

Electrical and Computer Engineering, Engineering a Medical Imaging Solution to Enhance Diagnostic Imaging Practice by Sergio Camorlinga, St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, E2-361 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 10-30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 17.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21
Engineering M.Eng. Presentation, Microstrip Monopole Antennas for Ultra-Wideband Communications by Min-kyu Jung, E2-361 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 10 a.m., Monday, Aug. 21.

History JMP Thesis Defence, The Shaping of a New Order in the West: The Influence of Winnipeg’s Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions, 1870-1915 by Claude Le Gras, 339 Ashdown Hall, University of Winnipeg, 2 p.m., Monday, Aug. 21.

Bison Sports
FOOTBALL
Aug. 26 – St. Vital Sr. Mustangs at Manitoba, University Stadium, 1 p.m. (Non-conference game)

Tickets available at all Bison home games, Frank Kennedy, Max Bell Equipment Desk.

www.umanitoba.ca/bisons/

Academic Job Opportunities

A full listing of employment opportunities at the University of Manitoba can be found at www.umanitoba.ca

The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply, however, Canadian and permanent residents will be given priority. Please include the position number when applying for openings at the university.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Department of Medical Education
Position: Director, standardized patient program
Start date: Oct. 9
Salary: Commensurate with qualifications
Application deadline: Sept. 18
Position number: 02232

For information: Mr. Keith McConnell, director of operations, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, 260 Brodie Centre, 727 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 3P5.

Section of Hepatology
Position: Research associate
Start date: To be determined
Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience
Application deadline: Sept. 17
Position number: 04974

For information: Dr. Gerald Minuk, section head, John Buhler Research Centre, 803E-715 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 3P4, e-mail gminuk@cc.umanitoba.ca

Department of Surgery
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Position: Head of the department of surgery, and medical director, surgery program, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. This position is a five-year term.
Start date: Oct. 1
Application deadline: Sept. 17
Position number: AD336

For information: Dr. Dean Sandham and Dr. Brian Postl, chairs, department of surgery headship search committee, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, 1800-155 Carlton St., Winnipeg, MB, RSC 4V1.

The Department of Surgery
Position: Vascular surgeon with fellowship training in vascular surgery
Start date: Jan. 1, 2007, or sooner if possible
Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications
Application deadline: Deadline for initial review of applications is October 1, and will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.
Position number: 03552

For information: Dr. L. Oppenheimer, professor and head, department of surgery, GF547 – 820 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, MB, R3A 1R9.

FACTOR OF SCIENCE
Department of Zoology
Positions and position numbers:
- Animal neurophysiologist, 04866, and comparative animal/environmental physiologist, 04865
- Start date: July 1, 2007
- Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications

Application deadline: Oct. 30
For information: Dr. Erwin Huebner, head, department of zoology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2, e-mail ehuebner@cc.umanitoba.ca

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICE
A NOTICE TO ALL PATIENTS

University Health Service will be implementing direct patient billings for administrative and medical services currently not covered by the Manitoba Health Services Commission or other insurance plans. These charges will come into effect on September 1, 2006. For a complete list of uninsured services and charges, please visit the University Health Service website. Please feel free to discuss these charges with your health care provider at your next appointment.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Events Listing

Fort Garry Campus

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
Anthropology M.A. Thesis Defense, Narratives of Settlement: Immigration, Change and the Individual by Amelia La Touche, 302 Tier Building, 1 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 17.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
Engineering Ph.D. Thesis Defense, Mimo Wireless Communication Channel Modeling and Performance Analysis by Mohammad Alsehaili, E2-361 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 10 a.m., Friday, Aug. 18.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21
Engineering M.Eng. Presentation, Channel Modeling and Performance Analysis by Mohammad Alsehaili, E2-361 Engineering and Information Technology Centre, 10 a.m., Monday, Aug. 21.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Deadline for Medicine, University of Manitoba, 260
director of operations, Faculty of Medicine

Application deadline:

Salary:

Start date:

Position:

Commensurate with experience

EDUCATION

Dr. Paul H.T. Thorlakson Gallery
The Iceland Reading Room, Elizabeth Dafoe Library, University of Manitoba Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

DREAMS & MEMORIES
by Karen Johansson
June 8 to August 31
University of Manitoba fine arts graduate Karen Johansson showcases her work with Batiks in the Dreams & Memories exhibition which runs at the Dr. Paul H.T. Thorlakson Gallery. Johansson said she became fascinated with Batiks, a type of fabric art, while doing graphics for a television station in Iceland. The interest in Batiks continued over the years and grew after Johansson opened her Lipton Street Studio in 1998. The collection of Batiks in Dreams & Memories are largely images from the Norse mythology and stories that Johansson can remember growing up in Iceland and through her return visits there over the years.

FACULTY OF MUSIC AND SMARTPARK

SMARTPARK’S SUMMER NIGHT JAZZ FEST
7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 17
Max Bell Centre

A group of internationally acclaimed jazz musicians are set to perform at the University of Manitoba. A jazz event for all ages. Tickets $10, children 14 and under are free (with adult accompaniment). Visit Ticketmaster.ca or call 780-335-53.

Bring a lawn chair. Free parking in U Lot.

For details, call 474 8111

Advertisement in The Bulletin.

For details, call 474 8111

The Bulletin publishes events involving the university community.

E-mail events to barbourd@ms.umanitoba.ca or fax, 474 7631.

The deadline for the Sept. 7 Bulletin is Aug. 30 at 4:30 p.m.

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Researchers shed light on grain quality

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

When you visit Jitendra Paliwal’s lab, you soon learn there’s more to grain quality than meets the eye. Paliwal, biosystems engineering, is leading an innovative project that combines machine vision technology with infrared spectroscopy to provide an accurate picture of how good a kernel really is, right down to its chemical composition.

“Traditionally, visible light and the human eye have been the best tools for determining grain quality,” Paliwal said. “Inspectors decide whether grain is graded as high quality, feed quality, and so on. This can be quite subjective, because what looks good to you may not look so good to me.”

To make inspections more accurate and efficient, Paliwal is working on a system that uses machine vision—a camera connected to a computer—to scan grain samples. The computer can be "trained" to recognize the different visible characteristics that determine grain quality.

“We’re also using infrared spectroscopy, which is a great tool for characterizing chemical compounds in biological systems,” he said. “If there are particular peaks in the spectrum, we can say that one peak represents water, one represents protein, and so on, and this allows us to describe the specific chemical make-up of the sample.”

Paliwal’s lab is the only one in Canada combining machine vision and infrared technology to classify grain. The system can be trained to not only recognize visible characteristics and determine chemical composition, but also to detect damaged grain and foreign material in the sample. One of the project’s biggest challenges, though, is training the computer to work with samples that contain multiple grain kernels.

“If you show the computer several grain kernels at the same time and they are touching each other, it often can’t recognize them as separate objects,” he said. “Finding a way to separate the grains so that the computer can make sense of it is a major part of my research.”

Paliwal’s work recently caught the attention of Pertem Instruments, a Swedish spectroscope manufacturer trying to overcome the same hurdle in its own research. Paliwal’s group has received a strategic projects grant of $318,500 from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to collaborate with Pertem on a three-year project to refine the combined machine vision/infrared spectroscopy technology.

Paliwal is also applying his expertise with advanced optical methods to the problem of detecting Fusarium fungi in wheat. “Fusarium infested grain is not fit for human consumption, and if it is bad enough, the grain can’t even be used for feed,” he said. “It is very rare for 100 per cent of the grain to be affected, but right now there is no efficient way to separate the bad grains from the healthy ones, so we end up destroying the entire lot, costing producers millions of dollars each year.”

Working with a Manitoba-based company, Spectrum Scientific, Paliwal is developing an optical system that will detect and separate Fusarium-infested grains. He said such technology will be particularly beneficial to Manitoba’s rapidly-expanding ethanol industry, which currently uses expensive, high-quality grain to avoid problems with Fusarium.

Jitendra Paliwal, biosystems engineering.

Hawthorne elected to Russian Academy of Sciences

By Frank Nolan, Research Promotion Officer

University of Manitoba mineralogist Frank Hawthorne has been elected as a Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences in recognition of his outstanding research contributions. He is only the fourth Canadian scientist to receive this honour, succeeding John Polanyi (University of Toronto), Michael Smith (University of British Columbia) and William Fyle (University of Western Ontario).

Hawthorne, Distinguished Professor of geological sciences, holds a Canada Research Chair in Crystallography and Mineralogy, and is internationally recognized as a leader in his field. In 1995, a new mineral was named in his honour, and in February 2006, he was named as an Officer of the Order of Canada.

“The results of Dr. Hawthorne’s theoretical and experimental research are very highly regarded,” said Professor Vadim Kazansky, a member of the Moscow-based Institute of Ore Deposits, Petrography, Mineralogy and Geochemistry (IGEM), part of the Russian Academy of Sciences. “He is well-known for his studies on crystal structure and crystal chemistry of complex minerals, but his research has also contributed to and advanced a number of other trends in modern mineralogy.”

Hawthorne is currently working with Russian scientists examining rocks recovered from the Kola Superdeep Borehole in northwestern Russia. The world’s deepest drill-hole, it extends down 12.2 kilometres, and provides an unprecedented opportunity to study continuous, unaltered sections of the Earth’s crust.

“This project really started when Professor Elena Sokolova (geological sciences) arrived in Manitoba in 2001 with preliminary Kola samples,” Hawthorne said. “Later that year, Academician Nikolai Laverov, Director of IGEM, and I signed a collaborative research agreement between the University and IGEM, and I was invited to speak at a special scientific session of the Russian Academy of Sciences.”

The agreement was for a three-year collaboration with IGEM scientists, including Professor Kazansky and Professor Konstantin Lobanov. The project also included Yulia Uvarova, a student from Moscow State University, who came to the University of Manitoba to begin graduate studies focused on the Kola rocks.

“IT’s always inspiring when you are able to work with colleagues in other countries,” Hawthorne said. “One of the great perks of this job is that you are able to meet and become friends with smart people from all over the world.”

The collaborative research agreement was renewed for three more years in 2004, and Hawthorne was invited to speak at a special scientific session of IGEM on the progress of the collaboration to date. The Scientific Council of IGEM subsequently proposed Hawthorne as a Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and he was officially elected in May 2006.

“When I received word that I had been elected as a Foreign Member, I was very excited,” Hawthorne said. “It truly is a great honour, and it’s very fulfilling, because you feel that you’ve jumped out of your field of study into something larger.”
A new way of doing business for UMSU
President Garry Sran is joined by four new vice-presidents

The Bulletin quizzed new University of Manitoba Students’ Union president Garry Sran about what led him into student politics, the new UMSU management structure and what he sees happening over the next year.

1. What made you decide to run for UMSU?
I have been a student at the University of Manitoba for four years now and have been involved with the university in various capacities. I have seen the changes and I want to be a part of making these changes and ensuring that students have a voice in the decision-making processes.

2. What are your goals now that you have been elected?
Where to begin?! First of all we want to remain open and accountable to all students. Over the summer we have been working hard on numerous issues. This includes working towards setting up a strategic plan for UMSU. Orientation Week 2006 is on the go and we have planned numerous activities, including a concert for Canadian recording artist for our headliner concert. We recognize that not all students have the same interests, so we’ve tried to capture a variety of students throughout the week.

With the possibility of three elections occurring in the upcoming academic year, UMSU will be working hard with other student unions in Manitoba and the across Canada to ensure that students voices are heard. Being members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), students at the University of Manitoba are ensured of having strong voices at both the provincial and federal level.

4. What is your background? Both academically and with other student organizations?
Academically, I graduated in May 2005 with an honours degree in economics. Currently, I am pursuing a bachelor’s degree in statistics, with hopes of entering a masters program in economics in the near future. I have a degree in statistics, with hopes of entering a masters program in economics in the near future.

5. You’re the first president to serve under the new administrative set up. How has the new set up changed the job of the president? What has it meant for UMSU?
The role of the president has not changed. In previous years, students were elected individually. The new set up creates a more democratic system. The position of president has changed. In previous years, students were elected individually. The new set up creates a more democratic system.

Bison Sports names MacGillivray as new men’s hockey coach

Bison Sports has picked Don MacGillivray as the new Bison men’s hockey head coach. As the program heads into its 54th season of Canada West conference action, MacGillivray becomes the team’s 14th head coach.

MacGillivray replaces Mike Sirant, who is currently on a two-year leave of absence while he serves as sports director and head coach of the Danish National Men’s Ice Hockey Team.

MacGillivray, a native of Brandon, brings an extensive resume to the Bison hockey program. The Winnipeg native has been the general manager and head coach of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL) Portage Terriers over the last six seasons and head coach for the previous eight seasons (1998-2006).

During his eight-year tenure as Terriers head coach, MacGillivray accumulated a record of 293 wins, 166 losses and 58 ties for a winning percentage of .638. He led the Terriers to consecutive Sherwood Division championships in the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons. MacGillivray was at the helm when the Terriers captured the MJHL Championship and ANAVET Cup (Manitoba-Saskatchewan) in 2005.

Prior to the Terriers, MacGillivray coached in the MJHL and Western Hockey League.

The new Bison men’s hockey head coach commented, “I am very excited about the opportunity to coach at the CHL level and work with the quality of athletes that come to the Bison hockey program. I want to maintain and grow the rich tradition of the Bisons hockey program over the next seasons.”

Bison Sports athletic director Colleen Dufresne said, “We are extremely pleased with coach MacGillivray joining the Bison Sports coaching ranks. He brings enthusiasm and experience into the position and we look forward to a continuation of strong performances with the Bison men’s hockey program.”

HONOURS FOR YESTRAU
Bison Ladice Yestrau added another award to her trophy case, as she was the fourth Manitoban to earn the prestigious Roland Michener Canada Games Award.

The Roland Michener award is presented every two years to two Canada Games athletes, one male and one female, who exemplify strong leadership skills, combined with an ongoing commitment to scholastic and athletic excellence. Yestrau swam in nine events at the 2005 Canada Summer Games in Regina last August, where she was also flag bearer for Team Manitoba at the opening ceremony.